

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2012 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release #28

Summer Announcement #23, Lower Yukon Subsistence Fishing Schedule

Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area

The Chinook salmon run continues to track considerably below historical averages. The Pilot Station sonar cumulative passage estimate of approximately 81,000 Chinook salmon through July 3 is well below the historical average of 124,000 for this date, and is also below the average passage estimates at this point for late run years, of approximately 106,000.

Based on the current assessment information, additional measures are being implemented to protect Chinook salmon. The next subsistence salmon fishing periods in Districts 1-3 are being reduced from their standard 36-hour subsistence salmon fishing periods to conserve Chinook salmon while providing some opportunity for subsistence fishermen to target summer chum salmon.

Coastal District: In the northern portion of the Coastal District from 62 degrees North latitude to Point Romanof, subsistence salmon fishing is currently closed. Effective 8:00 p.m. Thursday, July 5, the northern portion of the Coastal District will be open 7 days per week, 24 hours a day. Gillnets are restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size in the northern portion of the Coastal District.

In the southern portion of the Coastal District, from the Naskonat Peninsula north to 62° North latitude, the subsistence salmon fishing schedule is open 7 days per week, 24 hours a day. Gillnets are restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size in the southern portion of the Coastal District.

District 1: Subsistence salmon fishing in District 1, which includes the Black River, is currently closed. District 1 will reopen at 8:00 p.m. Thursday, July 5. This will be an 18-hour subsistence salmon fishing period, from 8:00 p.m. Thursday, July 5, until 2:00 p.m. Friday, July 6. Gillnets are restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to conserve Chinook salmon while allowing fishermen the opportunity to harvest summer chum salmon. The department will notify fishermen by July 8 concerning the next subsistence salmon fishing period and schedule for District 1.

District 2: Subsistence salmon fishing in District 2 is closed. District 2 will reopen at 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 4. This will be a 12-hour subsistence salmon fishing period, from 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 4, until 8:00 a.m. Thursday, July 5. Gillnets are restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to conserve Chinook salmon while allowing fishermen the opportunity to harvest summer chum salmon. The department will notify fishermen by July 7 concerning the next subsistence salmon fishing period and schedule for District 2.

District 3: Subsistence salmon fishing in District 3 is closed. District 3 will reopen at 8:00 p.m. Thursday, July 5. This will be a 12-hour subsistence salmon fishing period, from 8:00 p.m. Thursday, July 5, until 8:00 a.m. Friday, July 6. Gillnets are restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size. The department will notify fishermen by July 7 concerning the next subsistence salmon fishing period and schedule for District 2.

Fishermen in Districts 1, 2, and 3 should stand by for short notice news releases on VHF and radio regarding changes to the subsistence salmon fishing schedules in these districts.

Innoko River: Subsistence salmon fishing is open 7 days per week, 24 hours a day. Gillnets are restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to conserve Chinook salmon.

During subsistence salmon fishing closures, gillnets with a mesh size greater than four inches and a length greater than 60 feet must be removed from the water.

Recorded fishery announcements and updates will be available 24 hours a day at 949-1731 or 1-866-479-7387. If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the Emmonak ADF&G office at 949-1320 or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Fairbanks at 455-1849. The Emmonak ADF&G office will stand by on VHF channel 7A.

This has been an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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